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Economic Survey of the Village of Duches  
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# ECONOMIC SURVEY

OF THE

## Village of DUCHESS

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

*Industry*  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

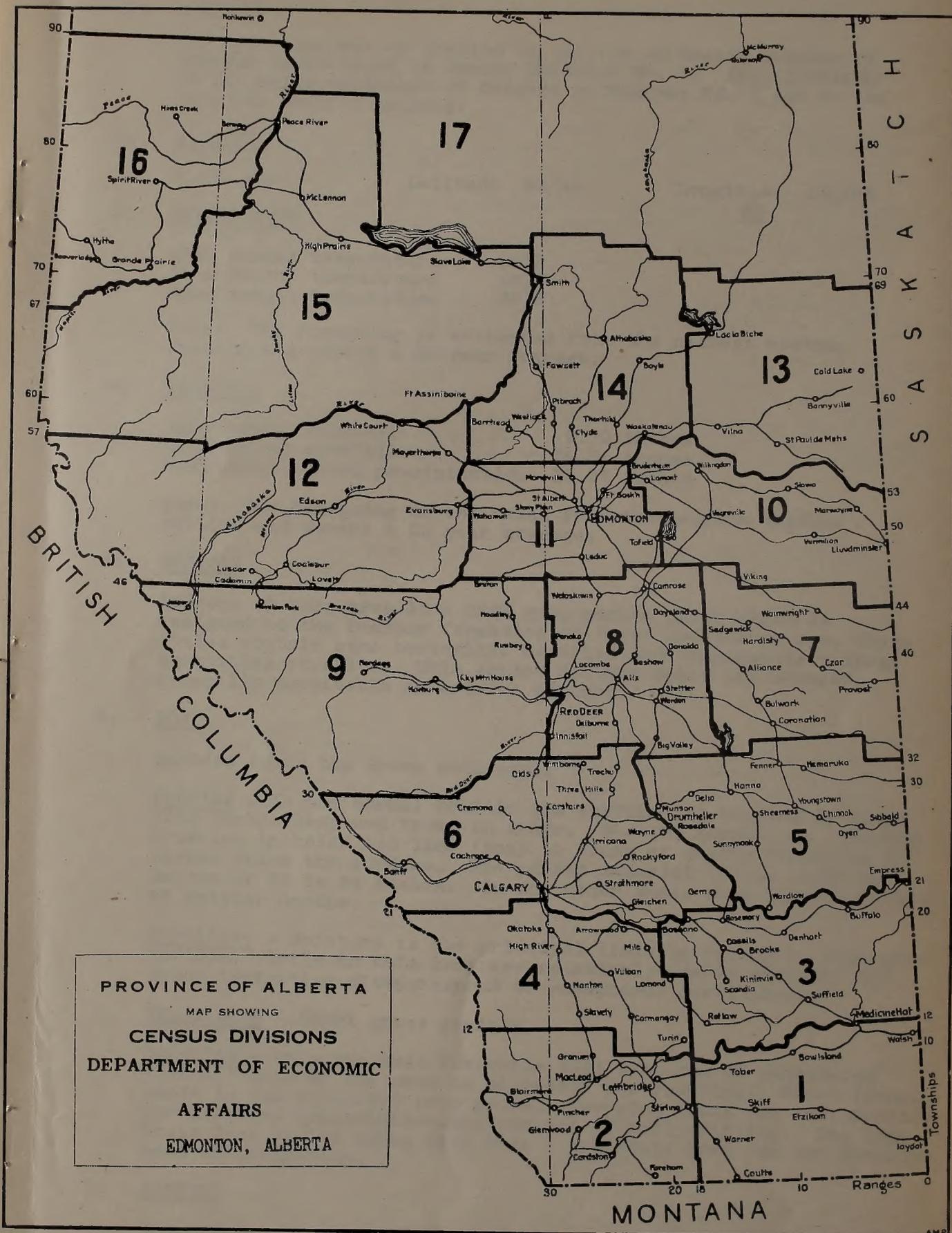
GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

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MINISTER

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VILLAGE OF DUCHESS

1. LOCATION

Southeast quarter of Section 32 and the northeast quarter of Section 29-20-14-W4 in Census Division No. 3. This location is 125 miles southeast of Calgary on Highway No. 1 and on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

## 2. ALTITUDE

2,479 feet      Latitude 50/44      Longitude 111/54

### 3. TEMPERATURE

Mean summer temperature	59°F
Mean winter temperature	25°F
Mean annual temperature	39°F

Note: The foregoing is estimated from the nearest weather station and covers a 20 year average.

#### 4. RAINFALL

Mean annual rainfall	9.72	inches
Mean annual snowfall	38.5	inches
Mean annual total precipitation	13.57	inches

Note: The foregoing is estimated from the nearest weather station and covers a 20 year average.

## 5. GEOLOGY

Bedrock of this area is a dark gray marine shale which is assigned to the Bearpaw formation of Upper Cretaceous Age. These shales contain some bentonitic material and comparatively large quantities of salts. This latter feature makes the Bearpaw generally unsuitable as a water horizon.

## 6. SOIL

Duchess is in the Brown soil zone.

Profile - In the normal profile the surface (A) horizon is about five inches deep and brown in color. The (B) horizon is commonly brownish in color and lime (Bca) is found at depths averaging 15 inches below the surface. The parent material (C) is found at depths of 20 to 24 inches. In the other zones this horizon occurs at greater depths.

Fertility - Moisture is the principal limiting factor in crop production. Soils in this zone are relatively low in nitrogen and under irrigation often respond to phosphorus fertilizers.

Vegetation - Short grass prairie.

Land Use - Only the most favorable soil type can be considered arable. Most of the area is desirable for ranching. Where farmed, wheat is the principal crop grown. Cropping practices must provide for moisture conservation and control of soil drifting. The long frost free period makes this zone a desirable area for the development of irrigation.

## 7. HISTORY

Duchess was named after the Duchess of Connaught, wife of the Duke of Connaught who was at that time Governor General of Canada.

Old-timers in the district were S. B. and H. B. Ramer, R. Welsh, J. H. Brubaker, W. B. Smith, R. McDonald, W. Lauver, M. A. Adams.

L. P. Larsen, J. A. Larsen, J. Svenson, A. Dahl, J. Hansen and L. Lendrum.

The first church to be built was the Mennonite church and the first resident minister was H. B. Ramer.

Shortly after the turn of the century John Ware, a Negro, established the John Ranch. This ranch and the owner were known far and wide for hospitality and generosity.

First white child born in Duchess was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Adams. Miss Adams married Karl Kraus, a prominent farmer in the district. The first wedding in the village was that of Miss May Stafford and Mr. Jack Hale.

The first general store in Duchess was owned and operated by Chester Marshall. W. B. Smith had the first machine shop and garage.

With the coming of the railroad in 1914 and the completion of the irrigation in 1915, most of the farms were settled. The first settlers were predominately Mennonite and Lutheran, having immigrated from Pennsylvania, Kansas and Colorado of the U.S.A. Many of the first farmers have moved to other districts but among those who remain of the first settlers are such names as Brubaker, Ramer, Hansen, Lauver and Dahl.

The first postmaster in the district was Wm. Galloway.

The first school was built in 1918 and the first school teacher was a Miss Williams.

Duchess was incorporated a village on May 12, 1921. The first reeve was S. B. Ramer.

At one time Duchess had a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, a creamery and two lumber yards.

The Duchess district is a good example of a small community within the eastern irrigation district, and the scale of diversified farming which can be practiced. All types of grains, grass seeds, fruits, vegetables as well as honey are produced. The raising of cattle and other stock is also of importance in the district. Duchess is a very good feeder point for the fattening of cattle.

A vegetable cellar was built in 1942 which holds 126 carloads of vegetables. The temperature in this cellar does not vary more than 3 or 4 degrees at any time. The temperature is held at between 39°F and 43°F and will preserve vegetables for a year.

In 1945 a hay and alfalfa mill was opened and is now shipping a great deal of feed from the district.

## 8. LIVING CONDITIONS

There were 40 houses within the village at the end of 1949. Average rent for a home with all utilities is \$25.00 per month.

New buildings built during 1947 - 2

New buildings built during 1948 - 4

New buildings built during 1949 - 4

About 90% of the homes are owner-occupied.

Schools provide courses in grades 1 - 10 with vocational training subjects such as typing, bookkeeping, art and music.

The village is surrounded with irrigation canals and Duchess is known for its pheasant country. Lake Newell, 37 miles southwest of Duchess supplies the sports for the summer and fall months. Good fishing, boating and swimming may be obtained there.

9. ADMINISTRATION

The village is governed by a mayor selected from the council for a one year term and two councillors, one elected each year for a three year term. The secretary-treasurer carries out the policy set by the council.

10. LAWS AND REGULATIONS

All new buildings, repairs to buildings, or removal of buildings must be approved by the council after which a permit is issued.

The Electrical Code conforms to the requirements of the Alberta Electrical Protection Act.

The Sanitary Regulations conform to the Alberta Public Health Regulations.

11. FIRE PROTECTION

The fire department consists of a volunteer fire chief and eight volunteer firemen.

Equipment

Two hand-drawn chemical engines.

12. TAX STRUCTURE

	<u>1949 Net Assessment</u>
Land 100% of fair value	\$ 29,922
Improvements 66 2/3% of value	176,220
Total assessment	<u>\$206,142</u>

Mill Rate

<u>School</u>	<u>Municipal</u>	<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Total</u>
54	18	8	80 mills

13. AREAS

Area of village	87.04 acres
Streets and lanes	18.11 acres
Public Parks	6.5 acres

Miles of roads, streets and lanes

	<u>Gravel</u>	<u>Unpaved</u>	<u>Unopened</u>	<u>Total</u>
Provincial main	1			1
Streets and lanes	3		1	4
Lanes and alleys		1	.5	1.5

There is 1.25 miles of cinder and board sidewalks in the village.

14. SEWER AND WATER MAIN MILEAGE

Nil

15. POWER

Three phase 60 cycle power is supplied under a ten year franchise by the Calgary Power.

Rates

Domestic

Available only for lighting, heating, cooking, domestic power and ordinary uses in private houses and apartments used exclusively for residential purposes.

First 20 KWH's (or less) per month \$3.10 gross minimum  
Subject to 30¢ prompt payment discount, making \$2.80 net minimum  
All over 20 KWH's used per month 1.5¢ net per KWH

Note: Discount of 30¢ applies on all bills paid within discount period.

The foregoing rate applies where the maximum demand does not exceed five kilowatt. Where the demand exceeds five kilowatt an additional monthly demand charge of 50¢ per kilowatt will be made.  
Connection charge for new customers \$1.00  
Reconnection charge \$5.60

Commercial service

Available where other rates listed do not apply.

Service Charge

First 500 watts of installed capacity \$1.20 per month  
Each additional 250 watts of installed capacity 3¢ per month

Energy Charge

First 50 KWH's per month per KW of installation 10¢ per KWH  
Next 150 KWH's per month per KW of installation 5¢ per KWH  
Each additional 200 KWH's per month per KW of installation 2 1/4¢ per KWH

Discount: 10% if paid within discount period--based on the even dollars only of total bill, with a minimum discount of 30¢  
Minimum charge \$2.30 gross \$2.00 net per month  
Minimum deposit \$4.60

Reconnection charge \$4.00

Power Service

(A.C) Available for motors, rectifiers, commercial heating apparatus, etc., in commercial establishments.

Service Charge

\$1.00 per month per kilovolt-ampere (KVA) of installation (One motor horsepower or one kilowatt in heating apparatus to be considered equivalent to one KVA)

Energy Charge

First 50 KWH's per month per KVA of installation 5¢ per KWH  
Next 50 KWH's per month per KVA of installation 3 1/3¢ per KWH  
Over 100 KWH's per month per KVA of installation 1 2/3¢ per KWH  
Discount: 10% if paid within discount period -- based on even dollars only of total bill, with a minimum of 30¢ discount.  
Minimum charge: \$3.30 gross \$3.00 net per month  
Minimum deposit: \$2.00 per h.p. with a minimum of \$6.00  
Reconnection charge \$6.00

16. WATER

Drinking water is trucked into the village from Brooks, and other water secured from irrigation ditches.

Water Analysis

Unobtainable

17. FUELS

Gas-nil

18. L.P. GAS

Heat value 2,521 b.t.u. per cu. ft. at 60°F  
100 lb. cylinders \$7.50  
There is no bulk storage tank in the village

19. DIESEL FUEL

Heat value 135,000 to 140,000 b.t.u. per gallon at 60°F

Domestic 16.4¢ per gallon plus one cent tax  
Summer grade 17.3¢ per gallon plus one cent tax  
Winter grade 17.3¢ per gallon plus one cent tax  
Storage capacity 13,000 gallons.

20. COAL

Coal is secured from Drumheller and Bow City fields.

Rate	Stoker	Egg	Lump
Drumheller	8.50	10.50	11.75
Bow City	7.95	9.75	11.00

21. LOCAL RESOURCES

Cereals  
Dairy products  
Honey  
Horses, cattle, sheep and hogs  
Poultry and eggs  
Straw  
Vegetables  
Fruit

22. GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND SERVICES

Federal  
Post office

Provincial  
Alberta Government Telephones

Municipal  
Town office  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Part-time utility man  
Committee rooms  
Fire hall

23. HEALTH SERVICES

Nil

24. PROFESSIONAL AND SKILLED SERVICES

Type of Service	No. of Establishments
Auditors and Public Accountants	1

25. TRANSPORTATION

Canadian Pacific Railway branch line Bassano to Empress via Duchess.  
Greyhound Bus line  
Local freight hauling to and from Calgary and Medicine Hat daily.

26. NEWSPAPERS

Nil

27. COMMUNICATIONS

Canadian Pacific Telegraph  
Alberta Government Telephones  
Post office  
Air mail through post office  
Nearest radio station Medicine Hat CHAT

28. FINANCIAL FACILITIES

Treasury Branch sub-agency

29. HOTELS

Duchess	<u>No. of Rooms</u> 14	<u>Single rate</u> \$1.50 up	<u>Licensed</u> yes
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30. TOURIST CAMPS

nil

31. CHURCHES

Roman Catholic  
United  
Pentecostal  
Mennonite  
Lutheran  
Greek Catholic

32. LODGES

nil

33. SERVICE CLUBS

Board of Trade

34. SOCIETIES

Home and School Association

35. EDUCATION

There is one school building with four rooms, four teachers and 115 pupils. Grades 1 to 10 inclusive are taught along with vocational subjects such as typing, bookkeeping, art and music. Two school vans bring the rural pupils into the village.

36. THEATRES AND HALLS

Community	<u>Capacity</u> 400	<u>Stage</u> yes	<u>Piano</u> yes
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37. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

nil

38. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Boys Wolf Cubs Calf Club	Girls Brownies Calf Club
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39. SPORTS

Hockey, Baseball, Softball, Curling  
Covered curling rink with two sheets natural ice  
Open air skating and hockey rink  
School grounds for sports

40. FAIRS

Sports Day only

41. HISTORIC SITES

nil

42. CO-OPERATIVES

Alberta Wheat Pool  
Eastern Irrigation District

43. INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

Type of Industry or Business	No. Establishments	Producer or Manufacturer	Whole-sale	Re-tail
Auto Body and repairs	1	.....	.....	.....
Butchers	1	.....	1	1
Building Contractors	2	.....	.....	.....
Blacksmith	2	.....	.....	.....
Cartage Delivery	1	.....	.....	.....
Confectionery	1	.....	.....	1
Coal Dealers	2	.....	.....	2
Department Stores	2	.....	.....	2
Electrical Appliances	2	.....	.....	2
Electrical Contractors	2	.....	.....	2
Furniture Stores	1	.....	.....	.....
Garages and Service Stns.	5	.....	.....	1
Grain Elevators	2	Total capacity 130,000 bushels.	.....	5
Hardware	1	.....	.....	1
Hotels	1	.....	.....	1
Implements	3	.....	.....	3
Insurance and Real Estate	1	.....	.....	.....
Lumber Yards	1	.....	1	1
Mail order office	1	.....	.....	.....
Milk Distributors	2	2	2	2
Oil Distributors	3	.....	3	.....
Painters and Decorators	2	.....	.....	.....
Pool Rooms	1	.....	.....	.....
Propane Gas Distributors	1	.....	.....	.....
Radio Repair	2	.....	.....	.....
Restaurants	1	.....	.....	.....
Welding and Machine Shops	1	1	1	.....
Woodworking	2	2	2	.....
Alfalfa Mill	1	1	1	.....
Vegetable Root Cellar	1	1	1	.....

44. SITES

Duchess can offer excellent industrial sites that are serviced with power, trackage and highway facilities.

45. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Duchess could support a shoe repairer, cold storage locker, Doctor, hairdresser and barber or any other industry that could use the district's natural resources.

46. TRADING AREA

On the north for 15 miles  
On the west for 7 miles  
On the south for 4 miles  
On the east for 7 miles

47. POPULATION

Trading area population	1,187 1946 census
Village population	207 1946 census
Village population at December 31, 1949	258 count

